

# IUD USE DYNAMICS: DISSEMINATION OF TECHNICAL UPDATES NEEDED

The IUD is the contraceptive method most commonly used in Egypt. However, physicians' technical knowledge of the IUD Copper T380A effective use duration is weak. New systems for disseminating technical knowledge updates are under design.

## BACKGROUND

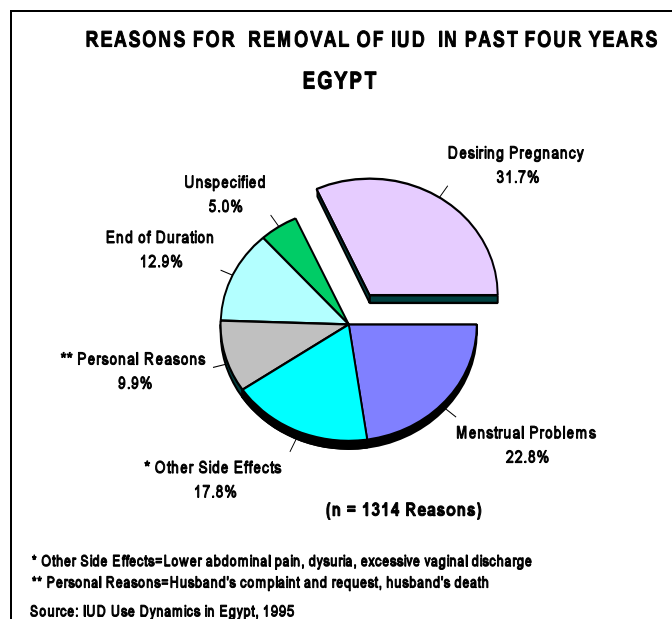
The contraceptive method mix changed significantly during the past decade in Egypt, where the percentage of married women using the IUD increased from eight percent in 1984 to 28 percent in 1992. Currently almost three out of every five women who use contraceptives in Egypt use the IUD. In the early 1990s there were signs that the IUD supply system might be malfunctioning. The most compelling indication was a discrepancy between the volume of IUDs distributed and the number of IUD users, as reported by prevalence surveys. Thus, The Population Council sponsored a study implemented by the Egyptian Fertility Care Society (EFCS) to examine IUD use dynamics in Egypt. The study analyzed issues of IUD supply, storage and use dynamics at the central, governorate and district levels, and in service delivery points (SDPs). It also examined physicians' knowledge and clinical practices related to IUDs, and client knowledge, attitudes and behavior surrounding IUD use. A total of 449 physicians and 2,106 women were interviewed.

## FINDINGS

### Client knowledge and use of IUD

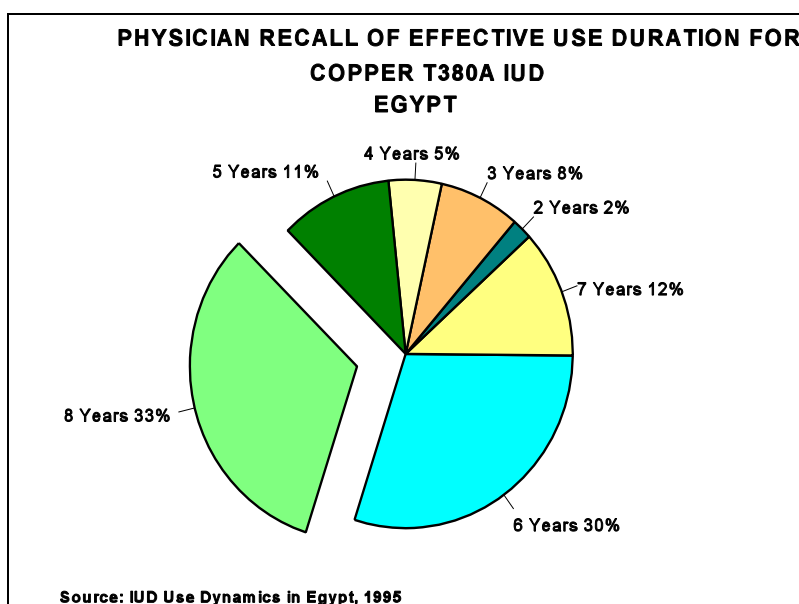
■ Many IUD acceptors use the method for spacing. The ratio of limiters to spacers was two to one for IUD users, making it the most frequently used method for birth spacing.

■ Approximately one third of women stated that they requested removal of their IUD because they desired a pregnancy, and another 41 percent cited side effects.



### Physicians' technical knowledge and clinical practices

■ This study revealed problems in disseminating new technical information. For example, only half of the physicians reported receiving the Ministry of Health regulations on the effective use duration of the Copper T380A IUD. Among them, only one third recalled correctly the effective use duration of eight years. (The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has now increased the effective use duration to 10 years.)



■ There was no significant association between training program participation and correct knowledge of IUD effective use duration. Although the training programs have been highly successful in improving other clinical skills of family planning providers (e.g. insertion techniques), weaknesses in counseling clients and accurate knowledge about side effects and follow-up schedules were observed with a substantial number of physicians.

## UTILIZATION OF RESULTS

■ Attention was drawn to improving the means of disseminating new technical information from the central level to the front line family planning physicians and staff. A special brochure was produced that communicates new information on Copper T380A IUD effective use duration (10 years) to family planning providers. It was distributed through Ministry of Health channels to physicians throughout Egypt.

■ The State Information Services, as well as the Regional Center for Training (RCT) incorporated several of the findings into their programs. The dissemination seminars suggested alternative models for packaging RCT training materials that make it easier to update them. For example a loose leaf folder that could accommodate new pages as replacements of out-dated sheets was suggested. These recommendations are being acted upon by the RCT.

Hassan, Ezzledin Ossman, Naglaa El Nahal, Mervat Gamal Roushdy, and Moustafa El Housinie. 1995. *IUD Use Dynamics in Egypt*. Cairo: Egyptian Fertility Care Society and The Population Council. May.

For further information on this study or to obtain a copy of the final report, please contact the Egyptian Fertility Care Society (EFCS), 2A Mahrouki St. Mohandesen, Cairo, Egypt. Tel: 20-2-347-0674, Fax: 20-2-346-8782. Or The Population Council, 6A Mohamed Bahie Eddine Barakat Street, 10th Floor, Giza, Egypt. Tel: 20-2-573-8277/570-1733, Fax: 20-2-570-1804.

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